

**UNUSUAL  
INVESTIGATIVE  
TECHNIQUES**

**(Not for Dissemination Outside the Bureau)**

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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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## PREFACE

No investigation conducted by Agents\* of the FBI can be characterized as routine. However, some problems and difficulties are encountered only when extraordinary or complicated circumstances are present. This monograph contains examples of the application of ingenuity and resourcefulness on the part of Bureau officials, Agents, and members of the National Academy in devising unusual techniques to cope with a challenge and successfully conclude an investigation.

In the field of law enforcement, it is difficult for any one person to know all of the techniques that have been used. Agents have been faced with some problems that are unique, and the methods utilized in their solution would be useful in the future only if the investigator was confronted with an identical set of facts. The unusual techniques set forth in this monograph have been successfully employed in the past and have been selected with the hope that they will assist in providing a solution to problems which will arise in the future.

Many investigative techniques are truly unusual when they are first conceived. Often their successful utilization depends upon the fact that they are extraordinary. However, frequent use of these devices in

\*Throughout this monograph, the term "Agents" refers to Special Agents of the FBI.

similar circumstances destroys their unique character and diminishes their effectiveness. For this reason, these techniques should not be used frequently without modification. The examples have been selected for the ideas they contain, and they should serve to stimulate the imagination so that a new technique or an adaptation of an old one will be created in order to bring an investigation to a successful culmination.

The objective in almost all investigations is to obtain answers to the questions, Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How? or to obtain items of evidence such as fingerprints, photographs, and handwriting. Whether the purpose of an investigation is to locate a fugitive, identify a criminal, or establish membership in a basic revolutionary group, fundamental investigative methods such as interviews, surveillances, and crime-scene searches are employed. In many instances, therefore, unusual investigative techniques are adaptable to various types of investigations. Thus, the examples are set forth according to the kind of technique employed rather than by the classification of the investigation.



## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

### A. Summary

Each investigative problem has its own peculiarities. Since this is so, it is frequently necessary to resort to novel and unique methods in order to accomplish the desired goals. An unusual technique or a rare application of basic investigative methods is achieved through the intelligent interaction of imagination, persistence, ability, attention to detail, and a desire to overcome all obstacles. At some point in the investigation, the zeal, enthusiasm, and perseverance of the investigator must be concentrated on the devising of a plan to achieve positive results.

Agents have assumed various identities and used clothing and other objects as disguises in order to obtain vital information or to observe an occurrence. There are occasions when information or access to a premise would not be given to Agents if their official status were known. Thus, it is sometimes necessary to assume the role of an individual who could easily obtain this information or permission.

Information concerning a subject's hobbies, special interests, skills, and idiosyncrasies can serve as the basis for the development of a technique which will solve a case. Telltale marks, identifying the subject with the crime, may be the result of involuntary actions on the part of the criminal. On the other hand, cleverly designed devices have

linked a subject with a criminal act or membership in a subversive organization.

Agents and other law enforcement officers are constantly using and frequently relying upon the assistance and co-operation of the citizenry. Unusual methods have been developed to procure this co-operation or to put it to profitable use. In addition to people, commonplace items, for example, newspapers and magazines, have served as the inspiration for an idea which will produce fruitful results.

A little time devoted to careful and logical planning can mean the difference between quick, positive results and aimless effort. Since a pretext telephone call is an investigative technique, time should be spent in contemplating the background and interests of the person being called, as well as the type of information being sought. To obtain the results desired, the investigator must make the call appear legitimate and the questions reasonable.

Machines, instruments, and other objects which are not normally associated with the tools and equipment of the law enforcement officer have been adroitly applied to investigative problems. Also, objects observed during a crime-scene search sometimes appear to offer little or no assistance in identifying the criminal. However, subsequent investigation, scientific examination, or unusual application of the intelligence information

obtained because such an object was discovered may make it the most important piece of evidence in the identification of the subject.

A well-planned interview is a fundamental investigative technique. It is not uncommon to obtain full co-operation and the solution to an investigative problem through a series of carefully conducted interviews. At times, however, full and complete co-operation is not readily obtained. The receipt of the needed information may depend upon a clever approach or the concealment of the real purpose of the interview.

**B. Conclusions**

1. A well-conceived plan to conceal an Agent's real identity can be successfully utilized for a variety of investigations.

2. An investigator who is alert and knowledgeable regarding all facets of the subject's background can devise many methods to use this information to his advantage.

3. A detailed analysis of all items having any degree of association with the subject or the crime may lead to the discovery of identifying marks or methods which will produce this type of evidence.

4. There is almost no limit to the number of ways in which an Agent can obtain the co-operation of others during the course of an investigation.

5. Objects in frequent use, such as

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[redacted] should not be overlooked when an unusual approach may be necessary to find the solution to a particularly difficult problem.

6. A carefully planned pretext telephone call may save many hours of investigative effort and, in some cases, may produce information not otherwise obtainable.

7. Objects which are normally designed for other purposes can be used successfully by an investigator to solve a crime, apprehend a fugitive, or conduct a discreet surveillance.

8. What appears to be an insignificant or unimportant object at the time of a crime-scene search may be vital to the solution of the case.

9. A successful interview may depend upon the clever use of some artifice to obtain complete co-operation.

10. The knowledge gained from the solution of an investigative problem through the utilization of an unusual technique should be shared for the future benefit of fellow Agents.

## I. IDENTITIES ASSUMED BY AGENTS

Normally the most effective and correct procedure in the conducting of an investigation is for an Agent to properly identify himself and then proceed with an interrogation, crime-scene search, or other investigative device. Yet, on many occasions, it is necessary to use a disguise designed to blend into an environment in order to conduct a discreet surveillance. On other occasions, information or access to property would not be given to Agents if their identities were revealed. In these instances, it becomes necessary to play the role of an individual to whom such information or permission would be given without hesitation.

A carefully planned pretext telephone call frequently develops information which would be impossible to obtain in a personal interview in which the identity of the Agent is disclosed. It will be seen in a later chapter that various types of information can be obtained through pretext telephone calls. However, a personal interview, conducted under an assumed identity, provides the opportunity to use clothing and objects to visually assist in the carrying out of the disguise. The following examples illustrate that a well-conceived plan to conceal an Agent's real identity can be utilized for a wide variety of investigations.

A.

As a result of inquiries by other agencies, a deserter was aware

that an investigation was being conducted to locate him. An Agent ascertained that the subject had been seen in a particular rural area. As a survey of the general area was being conducted, an [ ] was observed driving from house to house in an ancient automobile. The Agent joined the [ ] and was successful in [ ]. When they neared the area in which the fugitive had been seen, the Agent noticed a shack across the road from a large house. With a [ ] the Agent knocked on the door of the shack with the other hand. The knock was answered by an individual whose description was similar to that of the deserter. The Agent maintained the role of an [ ] and engaged in a conversation. During this discussion, the subject gave his name and admitted that he was a deserter. Handcuffs were immediately placed on his wrists, and he was taken to the local jail in the [ ] automobile.

B. [ ]

Sometimes the creation of an impression as the result of a disguise will produce the information being sought even though another identity is not actually assumed. Experience has demonstrated that frequently it is difficult to obtain any information in large city neighborhoods which contain a preponderance of recent immigrants or first-generation Americans. In an effort to ascertain if a subject was living

in a certain apartment building, an Agent obtained a blue overcoat, a light-grey Homburg hat, and a [REDACTED] Using this disguise, the Agent walked through the building and obtained the desired information without identifying himself as [REDACTED]

In one instance, as a test run, another Agent entered the same building that had been visited by [REDACTED] a few hours previously. This Agent identified himself and questioned numerous tenants. He was told by all of them that the subject was not known to live at that address.

C. [REDACTED]

Some form of disguise is frequently needed in order to observe the transfer of information in an espionage case, or the payment in an extortion or bribery case. This is especially true when the activity is to take place in a public building at a time when there is an insufficient number of people in the building to provide a suitable cover.

To be in a position to observe the payoff in an extortion case in a large railroad station, one Agent, posing as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Another Agent, dressed as a [REDACTED] stood behind [REDACTED] and pretended to be waiting for the track gates to open in order to help the invalid to board the train. This technique permitted these Agents to remain closer to the

victim than would have been possible without this disguise.

During the same investigation, Agents were stationed as [redacted] while other Agents, posing as [redacted] talked or argued with them. Two Agents were also dressed and equipped as [redacted] men working near the place where the payoff was to occur.

D. [redacted]

Information had been developed that a fugitive was probably located at a specific address, but all interviews with the occupants of this address, in order to verify the information, had met with negative results. An Agent borrowed a [redacted] and addressed a legal-size envelope to the subject. The envelope was also stamped "Registered Mail" and "Special Delivery." The Agent also obtained the proper forms for acknowledging the receipt of [redacted] Thus equipped, the Agent went to the address. The person answering the door called the subject so that he could [redacted] The arrest was made when the fugitive came to the door.

E. [redacted]

When conducting investigations to locate fugitives or stolen cattle at stockyards or cattle sales, more information can frequently be obtained by avoiding attention or suspicion. Invariably, [redacted] while usually dressed in a presentable manner, will carry a light-colored,



wooden cane. Therefore, anyone carrying a cane of this type is considered to have business at the stockyard and is not looked upon as an outsider. On at least two occasions, an Agent was able to walk up to a fugitive without giving any indication of his true identity prior to the arrest. b7E

P. [REDACTED]

In a fugitive-deserter case, it was established that the fugitive was hiding in his mother's house. Previous investigation disclosed that the fugitive had threatened to shoot anyone who attempted to apprehend him. He had been taken into custody on a previous occasion only after a detachment of soldiers surrounded the house. He was a member of a family group of 12 persons, who were known to be hostile and who would attempt to protect or assist the fugitive. It was learned that a couple had been renting a small apartment on the second floor of the mother's residence and that they planned to move. Agents made arrangements to [REDACTED] and thus were able to make a peaceful entry into the house. During [REDACTED] the fugitive was identified as one of the 12 persons who were seated around a dining-room table. Later the subject went into the kitchen. When [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was almost completed, the Agents entered the kitchen and asked the deserter for a glass of water. As the fugitive extended his hand for the glass, the Agents snapped on the handcuffs and removed him from the house before other members of the family could interfere.

G. [REDACTED]

Information was received that two individuals were engaged in a large-scale fencing operation and were receiving merchandise stolen from interstate shipments. They occupied offices on the ninth floor of a building in a large city. It was necessary for the Agents to obtain a vantage point on the floor occupied by the subjects in order to observe truck drivers delivering stolen merchandise to them. Through the co-operation of the building management, two Agents, dressed as [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on which the offices of the subjects were located. As a result of this technique, the subjects were observed receiving stolen merchandise and were apprehended while in the possession of this merchandise.

In an espionage case, two Agents [REDACTED] at a subway station and were able to observe a principal placing a prearranged signal for a double agent in a telephone booth.

H. [REDACTED]

In many physical surveillances, several hours are spent in hotel lobbies. When business conventions are held in hotels, it is customary for the delegates to [REDACTED] It is a relatively simple matter to obtain [REDACTED] Agents can wear them and are able to blend in with the convention group while they are in the lobby.

I. [REDACTED]

A Communist Party school was scheduled to be held at a farmhouse in a rural area. Agents were faced with the problem of getting close enough to the house in order to identify the persons who would attend this function. The technique which was devised might also be utilized to observe an extortion payoff in a rural area. The Agents obtained the equipment normally used by [REDACTED] With this equipment, the Agents appeared to be [REDACTED] [REDACTED] which ran past the farmhouse. As a result of this technique, the traffic along the road [REDACTED] This enabled an Agent, behind effective cover, to take photographs of the automobiles, the license plates and, in some instances, the occupants of the automobiles.

J. [REDACTED]

Agents interviewed the wife of a logical suspect in a bank robbery. She advised that he had left home hurriedly, that she expected to hear from him, and that she would notify the Agents when she did. Although she feigned co-operation, the Agents were skeptical of her statements and promises. Two Agents, dressed as [REDACTED] contacted her and informed her that they had just been [REDACTED] and wanted to communicate with her husband immediately. She furnished his address, and he was apprehended.

K. [REDACTED]

A successful technique was developed in order to obtain handwriting specimens when efforts to locate samples of handwriting from various records had failed. An Agent obtained several types of [REDACTED] manufactured by one company, such as [REDACTED]. The Agent went to the suspect's residence and identified himself as a representative of the [REDACTED]. The suspect was told that the company wanted to determine [REDACTED]. It was explained that a house-to-house canvass was the best method to obtain this information. The suspect was requested to co-operate in the survey, to [REDACTED] and to advise [REDACTED] he considered to be the best product. In order to make the disguise more convincing, [REDACTED]. The Agent also states that he has to retain [REDACTED] the survey at this address.

Similar techniques have been used to obtain photographs of a housewife or to obtain background information. Several cans of an [REDACTED] [REDACTED] are purchased. Two Agents proceed to the residence of the subject. One carries a [REDACTED]. The other tells the subject that they are conducting an [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for her. Several photographs can be taken

during the conversation.

A [redacted] was used successfully to investigate several subjects with the same technique. A branch of a subversive organization was established in a small city. It was necessary to obtain photographs and background information concerning the members of this organization. A review of the records at the usual sources produced little information of value. It was learned that many members of this organization were temporarily unemployed because of a recession. Two Agents assumed the identities of

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[redacted]  
[redacted] A neighbor of one of the subjects was the first person interviewed. Later, the subjects and other neighbors were interviewed. As one Agent obtained background information, the other Agent took photographs with a concealed camera.

L. [redacted]

A suspect in an extortion case operated a small cafe and was known to be a gambler. It was necessary to obtain samples of his handwriting for comparison purposes. An Agent, accompanied by a local detective, entered the cafe for coffee and doughnuts. They sat at the counter so they would be within hearing range of the suspect. The conversation between the Agent and the detective dealt with the art of interpreting handwriting. The Agent stated

[REDACTED]

As a result, the FBI Laboratory was able to identify the suspect as the writer of the extortion letter.

M. [REDACTED]

Agents have posed as [REDACTED] to obtain a variety of information or to gain access to a building when it was not desired that the subject become aware of the investigation.

1. [REDACTED]

Through a personal relationship with the [REDACTED] of a city, an Agent was able to represent himself as a deputy [REDACTED]. This guise has been used to obtain the identities of residents of buildings, as well as a description of the layout of a residence or public office.

2. [REDACTED]

One office was attempting to ascertain the identity of the custodian of Communist Party funds. The Party advertised a mass meeting in a public auditorium. An Agent obtained a [REDACTED] uniform and was able to remain backstage during the gathering. After a collection had been made, the Agent was in a position to observe the person to whom the

proceeds of the collection were given. A surveillance and subsequent investigation verified that this Communist Party leader was the custodian of Party funds and records

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3. [REDACTED]

Agents were faced with the problem of identifying two individuals who were employed in an office building in a large city. Several attempts to determine their identities had failed. Two Agents were stationed about one block from the building and along the route usually taken by the subjects. The Agents posed as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of the city. Each pedestrian was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Names and places of residence were recorded on book-keeping pads. The Agents were successful in learning the identities and addresses of both subjects.

N. [REDACTED]

The physical composition of a neighborhood made it difficult to maintain a stationary surveillance for any period of time. In order to overcome this problem, Agents obtained a supply of innocuous [REDACTED] issued by a well-known organization. While pretending to be [REDACTED] the Agents were enabled to remain in one place for long periods of time without arousing suspicion.

O. [redacted]

1. [redacted]

To obtain a photograph of a female subject, an Agent posed as a [redacted] the typical housewife in various areas of the city. He was able to obtain her photograph, photographs of her home, and a considerable amount of background information.

2. [redacted]

Agents have obtained [redacted]

[redacted] for a variety of purposes. This technique has been used to take photographs of subjects and suspects at airports and railroad stations. The [redacted] can also serve to permit the Agent to conduct an interview in [redacted]

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With the co-operation of the management, Agents have taken photographs of the interior of plants. [redacted]

[redacted] A photograph of a subject or suspect is obtained by photographing [redacted]

3. [redacted]

The disguise of [redacted] has been used to conduct interviews of subjects residing in rural areas. To add to the disguise, the Agent can [redacted] depending on the season of the year. The Agent inquires about [redacted] in the area and also advises



[REDACTED]

This technique has been successful in obtaining background data and photographs of the subject, his house, barns, and the adjoining area.

P. [REDACTED]

When conducting a surveillance in the vicinity of an airport, the Agent is made to look less conspicuous if he will obtain [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Since most travelers have [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] this ruse is easy to accomplish and is most effective.

[REDACTED]

## II. USE OF BACKGROUND DATA

A thorough review of background information, such as the hobbies, special interests, characteristics, peculiarities, and special abilities of the subject, may lead to the development of a technique which will provide the solution to a problem. Agents have used background information to good advantage in fugitive cases. However, the examples will illustrate that techniques have been developed from this type of information in other classifications.

### A. Hillbilly Music Devotee

The subject was a deserter. An investigation of his background disclosed that he spent a considerable amount of time listening to hillbilly or country music. There was some indication that the subject was living in a small city in a Midwestern state. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] in  
this city. At the request of an Agent, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] The curiosity of the fugitive was aroused, prompting him to call  
[REDACTED] to ascertain the identity of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that he would locate [REDACTED] and return the subject's call. The subject gave his telephone number to [REDACTED] He was apprehended that afternoon.

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B. Miniature Train Operator

Efforts to locate a fugitive in a deserter case had been unsuccessful over a period of several years. A review of his background showed that he operated miniature trains as a hobby. All information concerning the fugitive's hobbies and habits was incorporated into an exhaustive investigative summary report. Within two weeks, the subject was apprehended while operating miniature trains.

C. Phobia Concerning Birth Record

Investigation revealed that a female fugitive had developed a phobia concerning the date and place of her birth and the identities of her parents. [REDACTED]

and it reflected that the

date and place of her birth [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] were alerted. The subject saw the

[REDACTED] and proceeded to [REDACTED]

The

Agents were notified, and she was taken into custody.

D. Horse-Racing Fan

It was learned through investigation that a fugitive was an avid horse-racing fan and that he frequently visited the race tracks. It was determined that the subject might be in a particular city where races were being run at one of the tracks in that city. [REDACTED]

[redacted] and was just as promptly taken to jail.

**E. Semibald Fugitive**

The photograph and description of a fugitive disclosed that he was semibald and had a prominent scar on the top of his head. There was some indication that the subject might be living in a certain section of a city. An Agent interviewed [redacted] in this section. [redacted] was able to positively identify the fugitive because he remembered the head scar. The subject was apprehended in a hotel in the vicinity of [redacted]

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**F. Credit-Card Holder**

During the investigation of a kidnapping-murder case, the subject offered an alibi which placed him many miles from the scene of the crime at the time of its commission. His alibi also outlined his route of travel on the day of the crime. Investigation disclosed that [redacted]

[redacted] An extensive search of [redacted] resulted in the location of [redacted] [redacted] placed him near the scene of the crime, and the other placed him some distance from the route he had given in his alibi.

These receipts destroyed his alibi, and he was convicted.

**G. Outsized Turnip Farmer**

It was necessary to obtain a photograph of an elderly female subject who resided in a rural area. Information was received that she

was very proud of the success she had achieved in raising outsized turnips.

[REDACTED] She

consented to have her photograph taken as she held a large turnip in her hand.

H. Physical Culturist

A highly placed Communist Party underground leader arrived at a city in which he had an assignment to organize colonizers. He was alert to surveillances and other investigative techniques. He also had an avid interest in gymnastics and swimming. Through the co-operation of businessmen, it was possible to direct him to an athletic club [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The subject placed all the property in his possession, including a notebook, in a place which was accessible to any member of the club. He then proceeded to the swimming pool. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The notebook contained the location for several meetings he had scheduled for the next week.

I. Unemployed Worker

A bank robbery in a suburb of a large city involved the use of a note demanding the money. A search was made of the personnel records in

[REDACTED] Records of employees, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were reviewed. A suspect was developed on the basis of description and a comparison of handwriting. Subsequently, his employment photograph was identified by witnesses. The subject was apprehended and pleaded guilty.

**J.    Glass Blower**

**A fugitive was a glass blower by trade and was unemployed.**

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**met with success. It is suggested that this technique could be used in any instance in which the subject has engaged in an unusual occupation.**

### III. IDENTIFYING MARKS

Scientific examination of evidence solves many crimes by reason of the fact that the subject has left a telltale mark which can be used to link him to the crime. Fingerprints, handwriting, and heelprints are obvious examples. Unusual techniques result when less obvious examples or invisible marks are employed or ingenuity is used in obtaining or utilizing items such as fingerprints. Experience has proven that identifying marks can be helpful in all types of investigations.

#### A. Identifying Marks On Letters And Postal Cards

1. [REDACTED]

A leather billfold was stolen from the counter of a neighborhood grocery store. It contained a large sum of money. There were seven persons in the store at the time. Each of the seven was told that the victim of the theft was a very poor woman and that the billfold contained all the money she had. Each was asked to return the money in an envelope of his own choice. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] A few days later the victim received the money, and the subject was identified by [REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED]

In connection with the trial of the 11 Communist Party leaders in

New York City, numerous communications were sent to Judge Harold Medina in an effort to influence him in connection with the case. An examination of several of these letters, [redacted] disclosed that eight were [redacted]

[redacted] These eight letters were [redacted] and were [redacted]

[redacted] As a result of this analysis, the membership of an entire Communist Party club was identified.

3. [redacted]

It has been previously illustrated that the idea of remaining anonymous appeals to many. An Agent conducted several interviews with potential witnesses in the investigation of a theft from an interstate shipment. These persons were reluctant to furnish any positive information or to admit knowledge of the theft. [redacted]

[redacted] When the Agent interviewed a potential witness, [redacted] and explain that if he had some information, but wished to remain anonymous, he could [redacted]

[redacted] Subsequently, the Agent recorded [redacted]

[redacted] with each person interviewed, the witnesses were given the impression that the Agent could not identify



the source of the information. Several hints were received and helped in subsequent interviews of the witnesses.

In a similar case, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] thus dis-

closing the identity of the sender.

4. [REDACTED]

Due to inactivity, little information had been received for some time relative to Communist Party activity in a certain area. Several persons were known to have been active in the Party in the past. In an effort to determine their current activities, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

B. [REDACTED]

Fur thefts present a difficult problem of identification. A method of identification is necessary before successful prosecution is possible. In one large office, as soon as information concerning a major fur theft is received, investigation is instituted to identify the furs. The means of identification are [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] An index system is maintained for ready reference, should some furs, suspected of having been stolen, be located in the course of an investigation.

C. [REDACTED]

1. [REDACTED]

In an effort to identify a person stealing coins from telephone coin boxes being transported interstate, the following technique was used.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] When a suspect was developed, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A surveillance of the suspect

at his destination revealed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Confronted with this evidence, the suspect admitted the theft and advised where he had hidden other coins stolen from the boxes.

2. [REDACTED]

In the preparation of a ransom package, the serial numbers of the bills are recorded. [REDACTED]

Another method is the use of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It can be used to quickly and effectively [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A co-operative witness was able to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] bills received at a gas pump on a Government reservation prior to turning the money over to the cashier at the station. The cashier became the subject of the investigation.

D. [REDACTED]

Difficulty was encountered in identifying meat which was Government property and was being stolen. The problem was solved by [REDACTED]

identifying the meat in the subject's residence.

E. [redacted]

[redacted] In situations  
where [redacted] will not [redacted] can be used.  
If the theft of metal objects is involved, [redacted] can be [redacted]  
[redacted] along with the [redacted]

F. [redacted]

A problem involved the identification of quantities of liquid plastic which were being stolen from an Atomic Energy Commission facility. The plastics were in unmarked, gallon containers. In order to be able to subsequently identify the containers, [redacted] was introduced into a number of the containers. Cans of the plastic, found in the possession of the subject, were later identified by the use of [redacted]  
[redacted] furnished the materials and equipment for this process.

G. [redacted]

A woman became a subject in an impersonation case when she falsely alleged that she had been a member of the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, U. S. Navy (WAVES), and received medical

treatment in a Naval hospital. A suspect was developed and she willingly submitted to [redacted] When [redacted] was compared with [redacted] of the person impersonating a member of the WAVES, [redacted]

[redacted] he could state positively that they were identical. The suspect later admitted the impersonation.

H. [redacted]

A National Academy graduate has pointed out that deserters can often be identified by the clothing they are wearing. [redacted]

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I. [redacted]

1. [redacted]

[redacted] which identifies [redacted] may be a source of considerable background information concerning a subject or suspect. [redacted] can often furnish employment, financial, or family data, which can open new avenues of investigation.

2. [redacted]

When it is suspected that a particular automobile has been stolen, careful examination should be made of [redacted] If [redacted] reflects [redacted] [redacted] there is an indication that [redacted] another automobile. Similarly, when [redacted] [redacted] the possibility exists that [redacted] other stolen cars.

3. Aids For Moving Surveillances

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An inexpensive method of obtaining discreet assistance in conducting mobile surveillances at night is to place [redacted] [redacted] of the subject's car. This assists in marking the car for identification and can be removed easily and swiftly when the surveillance is completed.

A similar technique is to [redacted]  
[redacted]

4. [redacted]

In a local police case, the subject had backed his car into a lane in a secluded area where the earth was semifirm mud [redacted]

[redacted] Officers investigating the case

[redacted]  
[redacted] and revealed the type of car [redacted]

This

information proved helpful and led to the apprehension of the subject.

#### 5. Photographs

Experience in conducting neighborhood investigations in cases involving interstate transportation of stolen motor vehicles has shown that most housewives are not acquainted with the make, model, and year of automobiles. The neighborhood investigation is designed to obtain any information concerning activity at the place where the automobile was abandoned. Usually the car has previously been moved from the area. A technique, which has been used successfully, is to photograph the car with a Polaroid camera and use the photograph in conducting the investigation in the neighborhood.

#### J. Obtaining Handwriting Specimens

The following technique has been used successfully with several variations. In one instance, it was necessary to obtain the handwriting specimens of a subject who operated a tuxedo-rental service. [redacted]

[redacted]  
The Agent went to the subject and told him that he wanted full details

concerning the renting of tuxedos for a wedding. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
he wrote detailed information which filled two pages.



IV. OBTAINING AND UTILIZING CO-OPERATION  
FROM NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS, BUSINESSMEN,  
ASSOCIATES, AND OTHERS.

The co-operation of citizens is important in most cases investigated by all law enforcement officers. Sometimes this co-operation is given voluntarily and, at other times, it is solicited. It can be offered freely and intentionally or it can be given reluctantly and unwittingly. The following material presents ideas and examples of unusual methods either to obtain or to utilize the co-operation of others during an investigation.

A. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] have been of great assistance in many investigations in addition to cases involving bank robbery or embezzlement.

1. Handwriting Identification

In a blackmail case in a small town, the police department exhibited the handwriting to [REDACTED] who were familiar with the handwriting of many persons in the town. A suspect was named, and further investigation resulted in the identification of this person as the blackmailer.

[REDACTED] are usually familiar with the handwriting of most of the residents of smaller communities. Handwriting specimens can also be obtained from [REDACTED]

## 2. Locating Of Stolen Property

A famous jeweler was robbed, and property valued at approximately one million dollars was taken. The activities of known jewel thieves were investigated. One of them willingly accompanied Agents to the office. He said that he was not involved in the robbery and the Agents could search him if they so desired. He was searched and a large, unique diamond, which was<sup>b7E</sup> a part of the loot, was found in his sock. A photograph of the subject was shown at [REDACTED] The photograph was identified as that of an individual who had recently [REDACTED] A court order was obtained, and a search of [REDACTED] revealed that it contained jewels, valued at one-half million dollars, which had been taken in the theft.

## 3. Locating Fraudulent Check Passers

The successful investigation of fraudulent check cases can result from the maintenance of close liaison with the banks upon which the check passer is drawing bogus checks. Most check writers travel constantly and have an excellent knowledge of the length of time it will take for the checks to be forwarded from the place where they were passed to the bank upon which they are drawn and to be returned as fraudulent. They time their activities to leave a particular area a day or two before the total time has elapsed.

Through the co-operation of the employees of the drawee bank, it is possible to be advised immediately of the receipt of the checks. This presents the opportunity to obtain all information available and to make Photostats of the check. The information and the Photostats of the check can be immediately sent to the area where the check was passed. The copies will arrive before the check arrives through banking facilities. The copy will assist the person who has accepted it to recall details concerning it. By telephonically circularizing the types of businesses usually used as prey by the check passer, it is often possible to apprehend him before he leaves the area.

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B. [REDACTED]

1. Background Data

Securing the co-operation of [REDACTED] is extremely important in investigations to locate fugitives. Sometimes this co-operation can be obtained by taking advantage of some information in the background of

[REDACTED] In one instance, it was ascertained that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] were employees of the United States Government. [REDACTED] who had initially exhibited little interest in the investigation, eventually produced the fugitive.

A suggestion has been made that the names and addresses of

[REDACTED] be obtained from sources

other than [redacted] is interviewed. If the interviews do not produce information leading to the location of the fugitive, then those interviewed should be asked for the names and addresses of the

[redacted] In some instances, the interviewee will furnish the names and addresses of [redacted] except one. b7E

Concentration on the address of [redacted] may result in the apprehension of the subject.

2. [redacted]

[redacted] should not be overlooked in the interrogation of [redacted]

A subject was wanted for unlawful flight to avoid prosecution. [redacted]

[redacted] stated that she had no information relative to the whereabouts of the subject. However, the Agent had an opportunity to talk to the [redacted]

[redacted] said that she did not know the location of [redacted] but furnished the name and address of [redacted]

said that [redacted] had recently visited the subject. Information supplied by [redacted] led to the apprehension of the subject.

### 3. Deception

Occasionally it is necessary to use deception and to assume another identity in order to secure the co-operation of relatives. A former bank employee had been a fugitive for several years. Many interviews of

the parents had been conducted without success. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] The Agent called on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and explained that he was [REDACTED]

and that it would be necessary to locate [REDACTED]

He first asked about [REDACTED] and was told that he

was dead. He then told [REDACTED] that it would be necessary to locate

[REDACTED] furnished

the assumed name and address of [REDACTED] He was in custody in a few hours.

4. [REDACTED]

There have been several instances in which the following  
technique has worked successfully in fugitive investigations. After the  
[REDACTED] have been ascertained, the most appropriate are  
selected for initial interviews. Frequently they are not co-operative.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] a position where they can  
discreetly observe any activity at the residence of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Several apprehensions have resulted from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] in similar situations. The technique is most effective where a

telephone is not available to one of the individuals involved.

C. [redacted]

Handwriting specimens of a female subject were obtained by having

[redacted] secure a handwritten [redacted] of the subject's [redacted]

[redacted] just prior to [redacted]

D. [redacted]

Several unsuccessful attempts had been made to apprehend a

deserter. The fugitive moved about every two weeks. It was learned that

he was in a resort area. Investigation at usual sources, such as [redacted]

[redacted] was negative. A photograph of the subject was shown to all

[redacted] when they [redacted] A small reward was

offered for locating the subject. Within two days, the subject was

apprehended as a result of information furnished by one of [redacted]

E. [redacted]

It was ascertained that the subject in a fugitive case was residing

in a particular section of a large city, but the specific address could not be

determined. An Agent, with the co-operation of [redacted] circulated

photographs of the subject among [redacted] covering this area. Within two

days, the subject, using the married name of his sister, was located by a

[redacted]  
[redacted] were employed in connection with a

surveillance at [redacted] With the co-operation of [redacted]  
[redacted] were installed under the ledge of [redacted]  
[redacted] was placed in the office of [redacted] The  
[redacted] was requested to [redacted] when anyone  
[redacted] After receiving the signal, the Agents were  
able to apprehend the fugitive.

In a similar case, [redacted] attached a [redacted]  
[redacted] to the inside of [redacted]  
[redacted] which was clearly visible to the Agents but could not be seen by  
persons in [redacted] [redacted] was instructed to  
[redacted] when the subject appeared at [redacted] The  
signal worked perfectly.

F. [redacted]

An investigation was being conducted to determine the activities  
of a notorious criminal, since he controlled the organized crime in a  
particular area. Efforts to develop sources of information among neighbors,  
relatives, and friends were not successful. The subject traveled constantly  
throughout the area; therefore, an extensive surveillance would be  
necessary. [redacted] [redacted]

[redacted] Characteristically, [redacted] enjoyed conversing with his  
patrons. Arrangements were made for an Agent to [redacted]

[redacted] while the subject was [redacted]

[redacted] Thus, he

was able to ask the subject questions which were designed to elicit information about where the subject had been and his plans for the future. The information was very helpful in the conducting of the surveillances.

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G. Television Station Officials

A bank robbery occurred in a small town near a large city, the robbers obtaining almost thirty thousand dollars. Detailed descriptions of the subjects were furnished by witnesses. It was determined that a particular make, model, and color of automobile was probably used as the getaway car. Artist's sketches of the subjects were made and photographed. A photograph was taken of an automobile of similar make, model, and color. With the cooperation of officials of the television station in the city, these photographs and a description of the modus operandi were telecast on the evening news program. The following day a letter was received, and it contained information leading to the identification of the bank robbers.

H. [redacted]

In an effort to learn the present whereabouts of a fugitive, arrangements were made with [redacted] to send a [redacted] to the last known address of the fugitive in the belief that [redacted]



[redacted] This technique was successful on this and other occasions.

I. [redacted]

One subject was located with the assistance of [redacted]

Arrangements had been made to have [redacted] telephone a

[redacted] and state that if the subject would call [redacted]

the following day he could [redacted]

J. [redacted]

Success in obtaining a photograph of a subject resulted from the co-operation of [redacted] who agreed to take a group photograph

[redacted] The subject was included in this group.

K. [redacted]

During the course of an investigation involving theft from interstate shipment, it became necessary to secure a photograph of a suspect. Efforts to obtain a photograph from all logical sources were not productive.

[redacted]  
A co-operative [redacted] arranged for [redacted] to be photographed. A photograph of the subject was obtained as a result of this co-operation.

A subject of an Identification Order had been traced to employment in a factory in a large Midwestern city. [redacted]

disclosed that the subject had been laid off two days previously. Inasmuch as the subject was known to be armed and would be apt to resist arrest, arrangements were made with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The subject was apprehended when he [REDACTED]

L. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] can frequently get

current employment data much faster than it can be obtained from other sources.

M. Airline Personnel

In the frequently encountered situation of attempting to identify a person arriving by plane, for apprehension or other purposes, it should be remembered that it is possible to communicate by radio with a plane in flight in order to determine whether or not the subject is aboard, the type of clothing he is wearing, and whether or not he is traveling alone.

N. [REDACTED]

During the course of an espionage investigation, the subject was scheduled to meet with an informant in [REDACTED] in a large Eastern city. The co-operation of [REDACTED] was requested in order to obtain photographic evidence of the meeting. The management agreed

[redacted] the subject and the informant [redacted]

[redacted] The co-operative photographer secured shots of the subject and the informant [redacted]

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O. [redacted]

In a case involving theft of Government property, an Agent made arrangements to [redacted] the premises where the loot might have been stored. [redacted] no one asked the identity of the Agent, and the stolen property was located.

P. [redacted]

The following technique was used to obtain the current residence and employment of a subject of a security investigation when all other means had failed. A representative of [redacted] agreed to send a letter to the last known address of the subject. The letter requested the subject [redacted]

[redacted] The subject appeared as requested and furnished his residence and employment addresses.

Q. [redacted]

[redacted] have been used to obtain the identity of unknown subjects. If a surveillance is being conducted and the subject enters [redacted]

[redacted] can be requested to obtain the name and address of the subject for purposes of [redacted]

b7E

[redacted] Several techniques were used to identify the third participant in a bank burglary involving the burning of a safe. Two subjects were prosecuted on the testimony of witnesses who saw the loot, oxygen and acetylene tanks, and a torch in their possession. However, it was apparent that a third man was involved, since the other two did not have the ability required to burn the safe. [redacted]

[redacted] recalled that [redacted]

[redacted] had a circular scar around one eye. A review of records of former prison inmates of the two involved in the crime, disclosed an associate who had such a scar. Through the use of informants and interviews of associates of the burglars, it was stated that the third subject had been identified and that there was an open-and-shut case against him. When the suspect was arrested, he confessed and said that he knew that the case against him was solid on the basis of what he learned from his underworld associates.

**V. ITEMS NORMALLY USED BY MOST PEOPLE**

During the course of a day, week, or year, most people in the United States will use a number of items either at work or in leisure hours. Practically everyone will have an occasion to [redacted]

[redacted] or [redacted] The following examples illustrate that it is possible to devise unusual investigative techniques based on this observation.

A. [redacted]

The following technique has been used to obtain a photograph of a subject. [redacted]

[redacted] The Agent goes to the subject's residence, informs him that [redacted] and asks [redacted] It is not necessary for the Agent to identify himself. Usually the subject will [redacted] At this time, it is generally a simple matter to photograph the subject with a concealed camera, or another Agent can photograph him from a parked automobile.

B. [redacted]

In an effort to locate a fugitive, [redacted]

interviewed on several occasions. She had professed to have no knowledge of the subject's whereabouts, but had promised co-operation. A recital of the provisions of the harboring statute did not seem to impress her. A few days before [redacted] was addressed to him at [redacted] address. [redacted] was interviewed again but did not mention [redacted]. The Agents advised her that they knew that she received [redacted]. At first, she denied its receipt. Subsequently, she admitted that she had received [redacted] and then told the Agents where the subject was residing. b7E

C. [redacted]

No co-operation had been received in a neighborhood investigation to locate a fugitive. [redacted]

[redacted]

The Agent went to the residence of the subject, and a woman answered the door. She admitted knowing the subject, furnished his full name, but said he was not at home. The Agent stated that he would like to see the subject but had to leave town shortly. An unlisted telephone number and the name of the Agent were left with the woman. A call was received from the subject. He was asked to wait at his residence [redacted]. He was apprehended.

D. [redacted]

A police department had a number of unsolved burglaries in which sets of electric trains were taken from residences. [redacted] one of the officers reviewed [redacted] Several electric trains were offered for sale. An arrest and conviction resulted when one individual could not give a satisfactory explanation for the possession of the trains he was attempting to sell.

In an investigation involving a theft from interstate shipment, [redacted] a few days after the crime occurred. An offer was made to purchase [redacted] [redacted] were investigated to determine the manner in which they came into possession of the merchandise.

E. [redacted]

It was believed that the father-in-law of a fugitive knew his whereabouts, but would not co-operate with the Agents because he was afraid of the subject. [redacted]

[redacted] The Agent did not reveal his identity. A surveillance disclosed that [redacted] left his residence and went directly to [redacted]

[redacted] Through the co-operation of [redacted]

[redacted] was obtained. It was the address of an acquaintance of the subject. The acquaintance was interviewed and furnished the location of the subject.

F. [redacted]

The following technique can be used to obtain the addresses of correspondents of suspected espionage agents. When a surveillance of the subject develops information that he has placed a letter in a mailbox, an Agent can [redacted] With the co-operation of the postal inspector, arrangements can be made with the letter carrier for the Agent to copy the information on the envelope of the subject's letter,

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[redacted]  
G. [redacted]

An informant advised that he was to transport a person who was to set off a bomb from city A to city B. The informant learned the date that this was to occur, but did not know the place that would be bombed. The informant agreed to attempt to obtain this information during the trip between the two cities. The problem presented was that of conveying the information to an Agent without disclosing the source of the information. The Agent and the informant agreed that as the informant approached city

B, [redacted]  
[redacted]



[REDACTED] This

technique was used successfully, and no one suspected the informant as the source of the information.

H. [REDACTED]

A technique involving the use of [REDACTED] was devised to institute a surveillance under the following circumstances. The subject lives in a large apartment house. A photograph of the subject is not available, and a description might not be sufficient to identify him as he leaves the building. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Of course, this enables the Agents to identify the subject as he departs from the apartment building.

I. [REDACTED]

It has been observed that in many instances [REDACTED] maintain a log on [REDACTED] This record is maintained on [REDACTED] Excellent results

have been achieved by investigating [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In one instance, investigation of the addresses of [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] revealed his location. He was staying  
at the home of a person [REDACTED]

When two Agents are interviewing [REDACTED] one  
Agent can request permission to [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] the Agent is presented with an opportunity  
to observe [REDACTED] that may lead to  
the location of the fugitive. b7E

An office was faced with the problem of obtaining photographs of  
several subjects, who were housewives. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] A camera was mounted in [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] at several residences, and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In this manner, some excellent photographs were  
obtained and, in many instances, [REDACTED]

J. [REDACTED]

No information regarding the whereabouts of a fugitive had been  
developed over a long period of time. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] a person in another city. According to information available, this person was not related to [REDACTED] An interview of this person resulted in the apprehension of the fugitive, who had assumed the name of the person [REDACTED]

## VI. PRETEXT TELEPHONE CALLS

In an earlier chapter, it was demonstrated that the successful completion of an investigation may depend upon a disguise. In surveillances and face-to-face interviews, clothing and various objects are used to add authenticity to the disguise. In a pretext telephone call, it is necessary to make the request for information appear legitimate. While the use of visual aids is eliminated, the fact that the caller is not seen works as an advantage.

To obtain the best possible results, it is necessary to consider the type of information desired and the background and interests of the person being called. Ingenuity, resourcefulness, and imagination are prime requisites in the devising of successful pretexts. A pretext telephone call can save many hours of investigative effort and in some instances will elicit information not otherwise obtainable.

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calls are usually regarded as important and not of a suspicious nature. Because of this, they can often obtain the necessary co-operation.

Pretext telephone calls have been utilized primarily for the purpose of obtaining information concerning the location of a fugitive, the residence or business address of a subject, or background. Occasionally, an unusual application of this technique can be used for

other purposes. The following are examples of pretext calls that have been used successfully.

A. Pretext Calls To Ascertain Residence Or  
Employment Addresses Or Background Data

Agent calls as [redacted] to

ascertain whether the subject is available for [redacted]

[redacted]  
Agent calls as [redacted]

[redacted]  
Agent calls as [redacted]

[redacted] The subject is requested to furnish his address

and employment for [redacted]

Agent calls as [redacted]

offering

the subject [redacted]

[redacted]  
Agent calls as [redacted]

[redacted] who is seeking to arrange [redacted]

Agent calls as [redacted]

attempting to [redacted]  
[redacted]

Agent calls as [redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted] In this event, he is usually willing to  
give his name and address if he is advised that [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

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Agent calls as [redacted]

checking to locate [redacted]  
[redacted]

Agent calls as [redacted]  
[redacted]

is being prepared. This procedure is used to determine whether [redacted]  
[redacted]

An excuse

is given to the subject, or his wife, by asking whether the subject is [redacted]  
[redacted]

If there is an

affirmative answer, the name and place of employment is requested in

order to [redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted]  
Agent calls as [redacted]

[redacted] requesting information  
for [redacted]

Agent calls as [redacted]

[redacted] attempting to locate [redacted]

[redacted] Explain that [redacted]

[redacted] The subject will usually  
spell out his full name and give [redacted]

[redacted]  
Agent calls as [redacted]

[redacted] This technique has been highly successful in urging the  
subject to furnish his identity and background.

Agent calls as [redacted]

advising that [redacted]

question is asked if [redacted] The

[redacted] The purpose of the call is to determine if [redacted]

[redacted] In this manner, the residence  
address of the subject is verified without further questions.

**B. Pretext Calls To Determine Location Of Fugitive**

1. [REDACTED]

During a fugitive investigation, it was ascertained that the subject was probably in a certain city where he had several friends who resided in cheap hotels in the skid-row section. None of these friends were co-operative in interviews. An Agent telephoned [REDACTED] where a known associate of the subject was staying. The Agent used the pretext that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Agents

discreetly followed the associate, who led them to another hotel and to the subject.

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2. [REDACTED]

Frequently information is obtained that a fugitive is known to frequent a crowded tavern or similar business establishment. Agents are faced with the problem of entering the building and observing the fugitive without alerting him. Sometimes this problem can be solved by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] will serve to establish the location of the fugitive in the establishment and may make it possible for the apprehending Agents to approach the fugitive from the rear [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



3. [redacted]

All leads to locate a fugitive had been exhausted. A brother of the subject had been interviewed and was not co-operative. An Agent placed a telephone call to [redacted] and represented himself as [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] furnished the subject's current address without hesitation. The fugitive was apprehended the next day.

4. [redacted]

A deserter had been missing for three years. Immediate relatives had been interviewed but were not co-operative. A girl friend in another city had been interviewed but furnished no information.

Investigation revealed that if anyone knew the location of the subject it would be [redacted] The wife of an Agent telephoned [redacted] from

[redacted] Representing herself as [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] furnished a telephone number. The address of the subscriber to the telephone number was determined. Subject was apprehended at this address within two hours.

5. [redacted]

A prisoner escaped from a southern prison and was in a fugitive status for a year. Information was received that he had seen his mother in a Midwestern city where she lived. Interviews with his mother and friends and neighbors of the mother were negative. An Agent with a southern accent called [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] A surveillance of [redacted] ended

at a motel. The manager of the motel identified a photograph of the fugitive and stated that he checked into the motel on weekends. The subject was arrested on the next weekend when he appeared at the motel.

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6. [redacted]

A fugitive had been employed as a merchant seaman. Investigation disclosed that he might be seeking employment through the Seamen's Hall in a large southern seaport. The fugitive was not known to the

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] Agents, stationed near [redacted] apprehended the subject when he appeared [redacted]

7. [redacted]

Two police officers received information that a fugitive could be reached at a certain telephone number. Investigation disclosed that this telephone was located in a house on the edge of the city and that the subject's car was parked nearby. However, it was not known whether or not the subject was in the house. While one officer took a position where he could observe the house and the fugitive's car, [redacted]

[redacted] He was apprehended as he left the

house to go to his car.

C. Call To Obtain Subject's Photograph

Several unsuccessful attempts had been made to obtain a photograph of a female subject. Two Agents, who were equipped with a camera and a telescopic lens, observed the subject's car parked near her residence. The Agents parked their car about 50 feet from that of the subject and on the opposite side of the street. [redacted]

[REDACTED]

The other Agent took several

photographs of the subject while she was looking for [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

D. Call To Locate Illegal Merchandise

Police had reason to believe that a fur buyer was purchasing illegal hides from trappers who were obtaining them during the closed season. They suspected that he was hiding the furs at his residence, but did not have sufficient evidence to obtain a search warrant. One evening, when it was known that he was at home, two officers instituted a surveillance outside the house. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

The officers on the surveillance saw the suspect hang up the phone, run to the basement, and then run out of the house with an armful of furs.

He ran into the arms of the officers.

## VII. OBJECTS AS INVESTIGATIVE AIDS

Agents are thoroughly familiar with the invaluable assistance that is rendered by the FBI Laboratory in developing and supplying electronic equipment and other scientific aids which permit the attainment of objectives in specific investigations. It is not always recognized that objects which are available to the investigator can be successfully employed to serve a very useful purpose in the solving of a crime or the conducting of a surveillance. In the following instances, ingenuity and resourcefulness were utilized in the employment of a variety of objects.

### A. Business Machine Equipment Solves Bank Robbery

During an investigation of a bank robbery, a description of the robber was obtained. It was also ascertained that he left the scene in a 1959, green, El Camino Chevrolet. Through the co-operation of the zone office of Chevrolet, International Business Machine equipment was used to determine all units of this model which were delivered to dealers in the area. The records revealed that 20 of these models had been delivered. The first dealer interviewed furnished the name of a purchaser of this model whose description was determined to be similar to that of the unknown subject. When interviewed, he admitted that he had committed the crime.

B.

Investigation disclosed that a fugitive who was considered armed

and dangerous was at the residence of his mother. The plan for the apprehension called for an Agent and the sheriff to approach the house from the front after dark. Two deputy sheriffs were to cover the rear of the house and the side windows [redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted] The subject immediately ran out of the rear door, [redacted]

[redacted] Thereafter, he meekly submitted to arrest.

C. [redacted]

Several .45 caliber automatic pistols were stolen from the National Guard. Investigation determined that four subjects were involved in the theft. Three subjects admitted their guilt and said that the weapons had been discarded in an abandoned clay pit which was now filled with water. Since the fourth subject denied any connection with the theft, it was necessary to recover the evidence in order to obtain a conviction. [redacted]

[redacted] Two pistols were recovered, and all four subjects were convicted.

D. [REDACTED]

United States Government electronic equipment was being removed from a closet in a university laboratory. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Each time the door was opened a record was made [REDACTED] It was determined that the closet was being entered about 90 minutes before the laboratory was officially opened. Subsequent surveillance by Agents resulted in the apprehension of a trusted employee who was removing the equipment for use in an electronic laboratory he was operating after working hours.

E. [REDACTED]

Information had been received from an informant that a jeep was to be stolen at approximately two o'clock in the morning from an unlighted area adjacent to a Marine Corps Supply Center. Through the use of [REDACTED] it was possible to observe the theft and to identify the subject from a distance of [REDACTED] despite total darkness. [REDACTED] permitted constant observation [REDACTED] The FBI Laboratory has [REDACTED] available for field use.

**F. Diaper Identifies Subject**

A witness to a bank robbery could not identify one of the subjects because he was masked at the time of the robbery. The subject was then photographed with a diaper placed over his face. The photograph was enlarged to life size. Thereafter, the witness readily identified the subject and made the identification in court.

The technique of placing hats, masks, sunglasses, and other objects on the subject and then photographing him has been used effectively in several cases where these items were worn by the subject at the time of the crime. Enlarging the photograph to life size has made identification easier in some instances.

**G. Zoned Maps Locate Abandoned Trucks**

A large eastern office investigates numerous cases involving hijacking. Swift location and recovery of the abandoned truck frequently assists in identifying the thief. In order to accomplish this, maps of the city are divided into zones and placed in Bureau cars. After a truck hijacking is reported, the description of the truck is broadcast, and Agents assigned to criminal investigations are instructed to call the office by phone for zone assignments. By referring to the map, the Agent can determine the precise area he is to search. Through this method a very large area can be thoroughly and systematically searched in a short



time. This technique has been very effective.

H. [REDACTED]

In an extortion case, Agents were confronted with a problem in regard to surveillance of the location where the payoff was to occur. The site selected by the extortionist was on top of a mound approximately 75 feet in circumference at the base and 25 feet high. Seventy-five per cent of the mound was surrounded by water. The mound was in an open area. It was necessary to get Agents close enough to make an apprehension and still not be observed beforehand. The only place offering coverage was at least 100 yards away. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and two subjects were apprehended.

I. [REDACTED]

In another extortion case, the site of the payoff was in a rural area, near a railroad crossing and an infrequently used siding. There were no buildings or natural cover from which the location of the payoff could be observed. [REDACTED]

were able to observe the area selected for the payoff.

J. [REDACTED]

A kidnapper instructed that the payoff was to be made at a specific place in open country. On the morning of the day designated for the payoff,

[REDACTED] to the

vicinity of the area selected by the kidnapper. It was made to appear that

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This made it possible for another

Agent, [REDACTED] to be in a position to observe

the payoff scene and any automobiles in the vicinity.

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A payoff has been observed from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
K. [REDACTED]

During the investigation of an espionage case, information was received that a meeting was to take place in a large park in an eastern city. It was known that many people [REDACTED] By

[REDACTED] an Agent was able to blend into the general environment and to successfully observe the meeting.

L. [REDACTED]

An unknown subject lived in a very large apartment building. The approximate time she would return to the building was determined

through prior surveillances. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Arrangements were then made for [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A visual check of

[REDACTED] immediately after the subject entered the building, revealed

[REDACTED] and thus indicated the

subject's apartment number.

**M. Various Items To Disguise A Surveillance Vehicle**

During surveillances, [REDACTED] can be placed in Bureau cars in order to achieve [REDACTED]

For example, [REDACTED] and can be easily removed when the surveillance is completed.

An Agent, equipped with a camera, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] From this vantage point, it is possible to photograph those entering almost any place where a meeting is taking place. If a meeting occurs at night, [REDACTED]

### **VIII. UNUSUAL APPLICATION OF OBJECTS LOCATED IN CRIME-SCENE SEARCH**

Every investigator is fully aware of the necessity for a systematic, intelligent, and thorough crime-scene search. It is obvious that latent fingerprints, match covers, pieces of clothing, cartridges, and similar items can be useful in the solution of a crime. On the other hand, items which may appear to be irrelevant at the time may become important as the result of closer observation, subsequent investigation, scientific examination, or unusual application of the intelligence information obtained as the result of the location of an object. The following examples will indicate that nothing should be regarded as insignificant during the crime-scene search.

A.  Solves Train Wreck

A train, carrying several hundred soldiers, was wrecked in Kentucky. During the crime-scene search, Agents accumulated all of the evidence available. It included rocks and a stick which had been placed on the track.  was found near the scene of the wreck. A neighborhood investigation disclosed the owner of  It was learned that the owner had loaned it to another boy. The second boy furnished the name of the boy who had been  on the day of the wreck. A statement, admitting the crime, was obtained from the third boy.

B.

Solve Theft

A truck, loaded with merchandise being transported interstate, was stolen, abandoned, and recovered. An interview of the driver was unproductive. A thorough examination of the truck revealed

A neighborhood check in the

area of the abandonment was negative. A widening search of all garages resulted in the location of a damaged garage which had a green asphalt roof. Neighborhood inquiry developed a witness who had seen a truck, similar in description to the stolen truck, in the vicinity of the garage on the night of the theft. The occupant of an apartment above the garage admitted the theft and implicated two other persons.

C.

Solve Burglary

were found at the scene of a burglary. Subsequent investigation developed a suspect. During the interview of the suspect,

He was then shown the physical

evidence which had been gathered at the scene of the crime. A signed statement admitting the burglary was obtained.

D. [redacted] Identifies Bank Robbers

A search of the area during a bank robbery investigation resulted in the recovery of [redacted] The FBI Laboratory was requested to take photographs of individuals who fitted the general description of the suspects and who were [redacted] [redacted] Mug shots of likely suspects were substituted in inserts made in the photographs. Through the use of this technique, witnesses identified two subjects. The witnesses commented that the viewing of a photograph of the face of the subject and [redacted] [redacted] removed any doubt about the identification. b7E

E. Parked Automobile Identifies Bank Robber

After the commission of a bank robbery, one of the bank tellers chased the subject out of the bank and down a street but was unable to overtake him. During a search of the area around the bank, an Agent observed an automobile parked on a downgrade [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] A close inspection of the car was made, [redacted] [redacted] for a fast getaway, and [redacted] could have been the result of the pursuit of the subject by the teller. A receipt book was located in the car, and the bank robbery note had

been written on a receipt. Subsequent investigation disclosed that the automobile was that of the bank robber and that the receipt book contained the indented writing of the note.

It has been suggested that the local police and sheriffs should be instructed to ask the bank official who calls to report a robbery to

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

While this technique may not locate the car used by the bank robber, it may identify witnesses who have observed something of significance at the time of the robbery. Frequently these automobiles have been removed before investigators arrive at the scene.

F. Subject Identified By [REDACTED]

In the investigation of a bank burglary in a small city, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] were found on the vault

floor. The jailer at the county jail was requested to [REDACTED]

of all known burglars subsequently incarcerated in the county jail. A subject was identified within three days, and this led to the identification of two of his associates as participants in the crime.

## IX. TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED IN INTERVIEWS

Interviews of informants, sources of information, witnesses, police officers, businessmen, as well as friends, neighbors, and relatives of the subject, may furnish the investigator with all the information needed to solve a crime or to accomplish another purpose. At times, an interview of the subject will bring the investigation to a successful conclusion. Frequently, however, full co-operation is not freely given or is deliberately withheld by subjects or relatives and associates of the subject. In this event, it may be necessary to employ some stratagem to obtain the desired information.

An unusual technique was employed in each of the following interviews.

A. [REDACTED]

An investigation was conducted of a murder of an Indian on a Government reservation. A logical suspect denied any knowledge of the crime. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Further  
interrogation led to a confession.

B. [REDACTED]

It sometimes occurs in the investigation of cases, for example,



those involving transportation of stolen motor vehicles, that the investigator has to determine if the automobile in the possession of the suspect was stolen. [redacted]

[redacted] He should be asked [redacted]

[redacted] Experience has demonstrated that in every case in

which the automobile was stolen the suspect had no knowledge of [redacted]

[redacted] Confessions have been obtained because of this fact.

C. [redacted]

At the moment of apprehension, a fugitive-deserter should be asked [redacted] [redacted] In most instances the immediate reaction is for the subject to state [redacted] A

possible reason for this is that the deserter wants to demonstrate his mental prowess [redacted] or believes that the charge against him will not be as severe if [redacted] [redacted] Once

[redacted] [redacted] the subject is no longer in a position to deny his identity. This can be extremely important in those instances where the deserter has a brother with a similar description.

D. [redacted]

The following technique was used successfully in an interview of a subject who had been in the company of a fugitive for many months.

He was asked about [redacted] during the pertinent period. The subject realized that it was impossible to fabricate

[redacted]  
[redacted] The subject then gave an explanation for [redacted] This explanation solved a number of bank robberies, automobile thefts, and local robberies.

E. [redacted]

When it is apparent that relatives of a fugitive are not giving full co-operation, it is possible to express sympathy while strategically and nonchalantly producing [redacted]

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[redacted] Comments are apologetically made that if the subject is not located, consideration must be given to [redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted] The Agent explains that he regrets the necessity for this because of the adverse effect this action generally has on members of the family, although they are innocent of any wrongdoing. Often they become concerned about the notoriety that could result from [redacted] and the effect it could have on their employment.

F. [redacted]

An informant advised that a couple had registered in a hotel and that the woman was engaging in prostitution. Previous investigation had

disclosed that the couple were man and wife. In a prior interview, she had denied prostitution and interstate travel. It was believed that prostitution could be proved through witnesses. The informant learned that the couple had recently arrived in town, but could not ascertain where they had come from or the mode of travel. Agents interviewed

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Preliminary investigation pointed to her husband as a suspect. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

She named a hotel in another state where they had stayed on the night in question. She also furnished details of their travel by bus to their present location. She even gave a signed statement. Her husband was convicted for violating the White Slave Traffic Act.

G. [REDACTED]

A successful interview of a subject in a case involving theft of Government property resulted when the following technique was used. Some of the stolen property had been stored in a metal box. This box was in full view of the subject during the interview. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

The question brought an admission of guilt

[REDACTED]  
H. [REDACTED]

In some interviews involving [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the withholding of any indication of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has been advantageous. While it may make

the first part of the interview difficult, circumstances often warrant an

attempt to utilize this technique. It is possible that the person being inter-

viewed may make a remark [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This technique is especially

effective when relatives or acquaintances are present. An opportunity is

presented to overhear any offhand remarks or instructions [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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